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# COMMON WEALTH STATES

# SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS



LET OLDER AMERICANS BE OF SERVICE



*Dedicated to the Educational, Economic and Social Betterment of Older Montanans*

Volume 1

July, 1970

Number 5

## Six-State Aging Parley in Idaho



**THE CURTAIN FALLS**—Col. Joe Montgomery, Lewistown, 95 year old veteran of the Spanish American War, was honored recently at ceremonies on the State Capitol grounds, Helena. Shown addressing veteran and other patriotic organizations from all parts of the state at the ceremonies is Chief Justice James T. Harrison of the Montana Supreme Court. Seated from the left are Associate Justices Frank I. Haswell, Wesley Castles, John Conway Harrison, and Gene Daly. Col. Montgomery, extreme left, is the only able-bodied member of the Spanish American War Veterans of Montana left in the state. Eleven others were unable to attend. Col. Montgomery has been hailed as Lewistown's No. 1 Senior Citizen. Gov. Forrest H. Anderson was unable to attend the ceremony. He was represented by the executive director of the Commission on Aging, Lyle Downing.

### *White House Conference Plans Outlined*

McCall, Idaho — State executives on aging from six Western states met here June 24-25 to compare notes and plan for dealing with problems of the elderly during the next year.

The meeting was called by Clinton Hess, Denver, Colorado, associate regional commissioner of the U.S. Administration on Aging.

The Montana Commission was represented at the conference by Lyle Downing, executive director; Jack Tucker, administrative officer; Vincent Weggenman, field representative, and Frank Small, information specialist.

Topping the agenda was a lengthy discussion of the 1971



# Director's Report

by Lyle Downing



A final report on the year-long Senior Citizens Survey conducted by the University of Montana Institute for Social Science Research is expected to be completed within the next few weeks. We have received a preliminary report on the Survey from Dr. Gordon Browder, the Institute director. It stated that population figures for persons over 55 years old were collected by counties from the 1940, 1950, 1960 census. The 1970 population estimates also were analyzed.

Dr. Browder said the major finding from these figures was that an increasingly disproportionate number of elderly persons in the state live in those counties with extremely sparse populations.

"Historically, many of these counties have declined in general population," he stated. "At the same time they have maintained about the same number of aged. What seems to be happening is that more and more of the younger people of these counties are moving away while most of the aged remain."

Commission Chairman Barclay Craighead pointed out, after reviewing the preliminary report, the population figures point up the necessity for establishing Senior Centers in small rural communities. He

added that it is the hope of the Commission that at least ten such centers can be funded within the next year.

According to Dr. Browder's preliminary report, the overall findings indicate that most elderly persons prefer to be and are socially involved whenever opportunities are available and they have the physical capability to participate.

"There is apparently emerging," he declared, "what has been called 'subculture of the aged' among those who have become part of the growing number of organizations specifically for the aged."

It was noted by the scientist that the elderly who participate in various organizations, were quite enthusiastic about many activities. They not only derive a great deal of satisfaction from these activities, but also identify strongly with them.

Dr. Browder said there may be selective factors at work in these organizations. "Certainly they are made up basically of those who are physically the most mobile," he explained. "Health seems to be a selective factor. Socioeconomic class tends to be another factor. Many organizations seem to appeal essentially to the middle class, while within

others there seems to be a tendency toward a division between those of the lower and middle classes."

The Institute made a comprehensive study of 60 organizations in Montana designed for senior citizens. It found that there are many different types of organizations. Some are local groups organized by the aged themselves purely for social purposes. Some are local chapters of national organizations for aged oriented to particular occupations. Others are organized as Senior Centers where the aged participate in activities that appeal to them.

During the survey questionnaires were received from 56 of the organizations. Dr. Browder said the information received from these questionnaires dealt with the various types of activities, the frequency at which they met, and the benefits which they offer to the aged. An analysis of this data has not been completed.

The Institute also conducted 80 interviews with elderly citizens affiliated with various organizations. Some of these were leaders, some were elderly persons involved in organizations. Others questioned were the aged who have no affiliation with organizations.

These interviews were con-

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# Who's Who on the Commission



John Coey, Jr. was born in Belfast, Ireland. Mr. Coey attended grade and high schools at Deer Lodge. He received his BS degree from Montana State University and did graduate work at the University of Minnesota. Mr. Coey is the director of public assistance for the State Department of Public Welfare.

Mr. Coey is a member of the Montana Conference of Social Welfare, the American Public Welfare Association and the State Nutrition Committee.

## Director's Report

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ducted in various sections of the state in both urban and rural areas and in areas where numerous social opportunities were available to the elderly as well as areas where no such opportunities existed.

All of the persons interviewed were asked to express their attitudes about being old and about retirement. They were questioned concerning what they perceived to be the major problem of the aged and what they considered the best solutions. The social life of the elderly persons was frequently stressed by the respondents as



John F. Sasek was born in East Helena. His career as teacher and athletic coach in this state was prepared for by attending Western Montana College and Montana State University. Mr. Sasek served as a Naval officer during World War II and later worked as a psychologist at Fort Harrison Veterans Administration Center. Mr. Sasek has been active in civic affairs in East Helena and is presently secretary and social security administrator for the Public Employees Retirement System. He is also secretary for the game wardens and judges retirement systems. He is vice chairman of the Montana Commission on Aging.

the major source of problems for the aged.

The Institute Survey is a followup on the Senior Citizen Survey conducted in 1967 by Carroll College of Helena. This was an in-depth study of problems of the aging in Montana. However, it was a brand new idea and at that time gathering information was extremely difficult due to the fact there



Barclay Craighead was born in Clemson, South Carolina. Mr. Craighead studied at the University of Montana and received his BA degree and Masters degree at Gonzaga University. He was the publicity director for the State of Montana from 1925 to 1928. In 1930 Mr. Craighead was auditor for the State Board of Equalization. From 1929 to 1937 he was the office manager for the Democratic State Central Committee. In 1931 he was the secretary for Senator B. K. Wheeler. From 1933 to 1936 he was the state director for the Federal Housing Authority. From 1936 to 1946 he was chairman of the Unemployment Compensation Commission, now called the Employment Security Commission. He was one of the owners of several Montana radio and television stations from 1954 to 1967. Mr. Craighead is the chairman of the Montana Commission on Aging.

were few organizations which were operating for the benefit of older people. It is expected that the current survey will throw much more light on the problems of the elderly.



## MONTANA SENIOR CITIZEN CENTERS

Walter Zimmerman, Director  
Recreation Department-City of Billings  
Senior Citizens Multi-Purpose Center  
13 North 29th Street  
Billings, Montana 59101

James Todd, Director  
Great Falls Senior Citizens Center  
318 Central Avenue  
Great Falls, Montana 59401

John F. Haugan, Director  
Kathleen Walford Senior Citizens Center  
424 Higgins Avenue  
Missoula, Montana 59801

Earle J. Tucker, Director  
Helena Senior Centers  
1421 Roberts Street—21 North Main Street  
Helena, Montana 59601

Gwen Casey, Director  
Butte Silver Bow Senior Activity Center  
405 West Park Street  
Butte, Montana 59034

Frank Bolton, Director  
Flathead Senior Citizens Center  
Main and First Streets  
Kalispell, Montana 59901

Dan Lopp, Deputy Director  
Mineral County Senior Citizens Centers  
Alberton Montana  
Superior Montana  
St. Regis Montana  
508 Toole  
Missoula Montana 59801

Mrs. Sallie M. Brutto Coordinator  
The Senior Center of Hamilton  
O'Hara House  
109 South Fourth Street  
Hamilton Montana 59840

Almer L. Thorson, President  
Park County Senior Citizens Center  
206 South Main  
Livingston Montana 59047

Hugh Simanton Director  
Malta Senior Citizens Center  
206 South Second Avenue East  
Malta Montana 59538

Walter S. Holtzman Director  
Bozeman Senior Social Center Incorporated  
37 East Main  
Bozeman Montana 59715

Mrs. Eleanor Starina Director  
Big Horn County Senior Citizens Association  
518 Center Avenue  
Hardin Montana 59034



O'Hara House, named for the pioneer resident who built it at the turn of the century, is Hamilton's Senior Center. Center activities are confined to the lower floor which consists of a large meeting room with fireplace, a well-stocked library, a small lounge room, kitchen and dinette. Two large enclosed porches add to the usable space for center activities. The spacious grounds encompass a quarter of a city block with shade and fruit trees.

## Human Resources Council Gets New Officers

Jack C. Carver, Helena, assumed his duties July 1 as chairman of the Montana Council on Human Resources. Mr. Carver is director of the State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

As head of the 24 agency organization he succeeds Theodore Carkulis, administrator of the State Welfare Department.

Other 1970-71 officers are: Vice-Chairman Lyle Downing, Montana Commission on Aging director; Secretary-Treasurer Philip L. Kincheloe, civil defense director; and Parliamentarian Sidney T. Smith,

state commissioner of labor and industry.

Mr. Carver said at the next meeting of the Council on July 24 programs of the past year will be reviewed, and operations of the organization will be expanded.

Helena—A caravan of buses carried 94 Senior Citizens to Virginia City under the supervision of Joan Duncan of Rocky Mountain Development Council.

A National Guard bus, one from Canyon Lines and two mini-buses operated by Rocky Mountain Council stopped at Twin Bridges for lunch, and at Virginia City, the Virginia City Players entertained the seniors with a variety show at the historic Opera House.



# Governor's Conference To Hear Retirement Expert

David Jeffreys, Washington, D.C. Director of National Affairs for the American Association of Retired Persons and the National Retired Teachers Association, has been added to the list of speakers at the Governor's Conference on Aging, September 17-18 at the Florence Hotel in Missoula.

Governor Forrest H. Anderson will keynote the Conference at the annual banquet September 17.

Mr. Jeffreys has been associated with the AARP and the NRTA since 1959. In his present position he is responsible for liaison with national voluntary organizations and government and private agencies concerned with problems of the aging.

Before joining the retirement organizations, Mr. Jeffreys was on the staff of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. He was consultant on aging for the American Public Welfare Association, executive secretary of the New Mexico Association for Crippled Children and Adults, and director of institutional service division of the Cook County, Illinois Department of Public Welfare. He also worked in the fields of special education, mental health and medical public relations in the United States and Great Britain.

A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Mr. Jeffreys served in the U.S. Army's Rainbow Division in Europe during World War II. He holds a master's degree



from the Richmond School of Social Work of the College of William and Mary in Virginia.

This year's Governor's Conference on Aging will serve as a prologue to the 1971 White House Conference on Aging. The Montana Commission on Aging has been designated as the coordinating agency to arrange state participation in the Washington, D.C. meetings.

Ray L. Schwartz, Washington, D.C., White House Conference national coordinator, will attend the Missoula Conference.

Twenty-four state agencies are working with the Commission on Aging in planning Montana's participation in the White House Conference.

Theodore Carkulis, retiring president of the Montana Council of Human Resources, recently appointed a special committee to assist in the White House Conference planning. Members of the committee are: Lyle Downing, Execu-

## PATRIOTIC SENIORS

Four-fifths of those over fifty are registered to vote compared to less than half of the citizens under thirty years of age.

## Equality Plus

Author Gene Fowler in commenting on the inequalities of life said that it must be admitted that everybody gets their share of ice—the rich people get it in the summer and the poor people get it in the winter.



**Art LaPere, Cree Indian, is a popular entertainer at the Great Falls Senior Citizens Center. LaPere says he made the semi-finals in Jefferson, Missouri, old-time fiddlers' contest. At Weiser, Idaho, he became the champion old-time fiddler of the United States.**

tive director of the Aging Commission, chairman; Dr. John S. Anderson, State Board of Health executive office; Jack Carver, State Vocational Rehabilitation director; Sidney T. Smith, state labor commissioner; and Robert Cooney of the State Fish and Game Department.

## **Jobs for Seniors Set Record in May**

The efforts of the Employment Security Commission to make May truly Senior Citizen's Month paid off.

Despite the generally declining economy of the state the employment agency was able to place 547 older workers (age 45 and up) in non-agricultural jobs. This is a 12.8 per cent increase over May of last year.

Those over 65 placed in non-agricultural jobs rose from 37 during May of 1969 to 68 during May of 1970, a 45 per cent increase.

In addition to job placement, 35 disadvantaged older workers were screened for participation in various federal programs to upgrade their skills.

To achieve this remarkable increase in opportunities for Senior Citizens all media were used—41 television programs 15 live radio programs plus 975 spot announcements, 1,714 promotional letters to prospective employers, editorials, posters and pamphlets plus 483 personal visits to employers by staff members. Even outdoor advertizing was utilized in Great Falls, according to Jess Fletcher, director of the State Employment Service.

Older workers job promotion is handled for the state by Vern Vatland of the agency staff.



**AT SAN DIEGO MEET**—Lyle Downing, left, Montana Commission on Aging executive director, is shown chatting with Dr. and Mrs. Robert Binstock. Dr. Binstock is an associate professor at the Heller School of Social Work, Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass. He was the principal speaker at the national conference on Protective Services for Older People in San Diego.

### **Idaho Parley**

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White House Conference on Aging by Sharon House, Washington, D.C., representing the central office of the Administration on Aging and Ray L. Schwartz, Washington, D.C. national coordinator for the White House Conference.

Mr. Hess and other officials dealing with the White House Conference stressed the importance of this event which will be held November, 1971, in Washington, in providing a blueprint for future operations of educational, social, and re-

habilitation programs for the elderly.

Mr. Downing told the group that Montana is planning a series of state-wide public forums to acquaint the state's 70,000 senior citizens with the aging program and to enlist their support in presenting a united front for future national and state legislation in this field. He also outlined plans for the second annual Governor's Conference on Aging which will be held at the Florence Hotel in Missoula September 17-18.

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**JOIN AGING STAFF—Montana's Commission on Aging has two new staff members. Mrs. Helen Visser, seated, has been employed as an accounting clerk. She succeeds Mrs. Lila Gray who has moved to Billings. Also shown is Mary Hagbom, working as a secretary in the Information Specialist's office under a Federal work-study grant. Miss Hagbom is a junior at Montana State University, Bozeman.**

### Idaho Parley

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Robert B. Robinson, Denver, president of the National Association of State Units on Aging, presented that organization's position on aging problems. He said that it was imperative that worthwhile legislation such as the 1969 amendments to the Older Americans Act be immediately implemented.

"All our members of NASUA are deeply concerned over the present slowdown in development of programs for the aging," he said. "Unfortunately because of reduction in funds available to the Administration on Aging in the last fiscal year this slowdown

### *U.S. Spends \$99 per Child; Only \$36 per Senior Citizen*

Theodor Schuchat, syndicated columnist and author of "Joys and Jolts of Retirement," commented recently on the plight of the Senior Citizens:

"All but 15 percent of federal expenditures for older people come from the Social Security and Medicare trust funds. The elderly themselves contributed heavily to these funds during their working years."

"If you subtract those two payments, Uncle Sam will spend less than \$36 per senior citizen this year."

"On the other hand, excluding income maintenance and health care expenditures, Uncle Sam will spend an estimated \$99 per child this year."

"The things most children need are bought by their parents, while state and local taxes cover most of the cost of their education. In contrast, federal programs provide benefits for older people because they or their relatives often are unable to meet the costs."

has resulted. Some communities and other prospective sponsors of AoA projects have been reluctant to promote programs which have such a tenuous base of support at the national level."

The McCall Conference was arranged by Herbert Whitworth, director of the Idaho Office on Aging.

### **Ear Ailments Hit Elderly**

HELENA—In a recent State Board of Health report James L. Going said that 42 percent of those failing hearing screening tests were over 65 years of age. Of those passing the test only six percent were over 65.

Quoting the report: "This over 65 age group, as we know, has many individuals with real hearing problems. They are experiencing discrimination difficulties in group situations or when listening to children's or female voices. They may have had an unsuccessful experience with a hearing aid or they may feel they need an aid, but know people who are unhappy with their aids and hesitate to try one for that reason. Limited income prevents many older persons from paying \$375 for an aid."

As a result of the testing eight adults and one child were referred for medical care. Aids were recommended for 24 adults, ear protective devices for eight adults working in noise, and one high school student playing in a rock group.

Superior—The most unusual sight at the 11th Annual Clark Fork River Derby was travois sponsored by the Senior Citizens Center. The long poles lashed together were pulled by Al Booi's mule. Minnie Gould, dressed in headband, blanket and moccasins, rode the travois while Allie Kelly dressed in similar Indian garb, walked beside the conveyance. Al Booi wore the fringed jacket of a prospector.



**APPROVE PROJECTS**—Members of the Montana Commission on Aging's Technical Review Committee are shown examining applications for continuation of eight Senior Centers in Montana. Following the Committee's approval, the Commission ordered new Federal grants made to the Centers. Shown from the left: J. E. O'Connell, Helena industrialist, Attorney Thomas H. Mahan, and Banker Chase Patrick, chairman. Howard Ellsworth, Senior Citizen representative on the committee, was out of the state.

Livingston—Almer L. Thorson was elected to succeed Mrs. Daniel Lebsack as president of the Park County Senior Citizens. Mrs. Lebsack has served three years and was ineligible for reelection.

Other officers include: Peter Anderson, vice president; Leo Bair, treasurer and Mrs. Vera

Horsley, secretary, succeeding Francine Miller.

Elected as directors — Andres Laubach, Edwin Rust, Emery Jewett, Ethel Phillips, Norman Rost and George Loughridge and alternate — Steve Campbell.

Manager Orin Doty has resigned and Mrs. Jean Foster will be the new manager.

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Published monthly by the Montana Commission on Aging,  
Penkay Eagles Manor,  
715 Fee Street,  
Helena, Montana 59601  
Dedicated to Montana's 70,000  
older Americans

Forrest H. Anderson  
Governor of Montana

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